

## **In the Claims**

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) A bead curing finger mold according to claim [[1]] 6 further characterized by said upper fingers and said lower fingers having sloped edges for guiding and compressing said ~~circular member~~ bead bundle in a central position upon closing of said mold.
3. (Currently Amended) A bead curing finger mold according to claim 2 further characterized by said upper fingers and said lower fingers having molding surfaces providing a ~~circumferentially continuous~~ circular molding member surface of said mold with a precise predetermined diameter of said ~~circular member~~ bead bundle upon closing of said mold.
4. (Currently Amended) A bead curing finger mold according to claim 3 wherein said ~~circular member~~ bead bundle is a tire bead having a plurality of wires wrapped in a said bead bundle and coated with ~~a resilient rubber like~~ an elastomeric material further characterized by means for heating said mold for vulcanizing said ~~resilient rubber like~~ elastomeric material.
5. (Currently Amended) A bead curing finger mold according to claim 3 further characterized by said upper fingers and said lower fingers having extensions extending beyond said molding surfaces for guiding said ~~circular member~~ bead bundle and providing recesses for receiving said extensions in the closed condition of said mold.
6. (Currently Amended) A bead curing finger mold ~~characterized by~~ comprising a plurality of circumferentially spaced lower fingers disposed in a lower finger mold half, a plurality of circumferentially spaced upper fingers disposed in an upper finger mold half, said lower finger mold half being positioned in a generally horizontal position for supporting a bead bundle, and said upper finger mold half being positioned over said lower finger mold half with said lower fingers being interposed between said upper fingers in a closed position of said mold

for containing and guiding said bead bundle and providing spaces along said lower fingers and said upper fingers to accommodate variations in size of said bead bundle.

7. (Original) A bead curing finger mold according to claim 6 further characterized by said lower finger mold half being raised to close said mold and said upper finger mold half has spaced apart spring loaded ejector fingers for retracting upon closing of said mold and for extension upon opening of said mold to transfer said bead bundle to said lower finger mold half.

8. (Original) A bead curing finger mold according to claim 6 further characterized by said lower finger mold half having circumferentially spaced apart ejectors and bead holders extending upwardly through said lower finger mold half for holding said bead bundle in the lower position of said lower finger mold half prior to closing of said mold and ejecting said bead bundle upon lowering of said upper mold half after vulcanization of said bead bundle.

9. – 14. (Canceled)